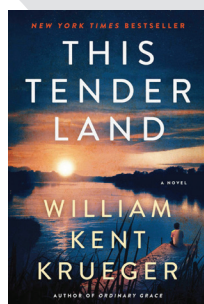
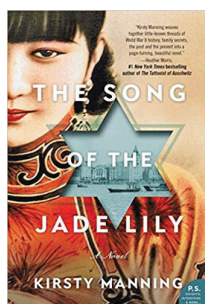




— 2019 —

Vernon Area Public Library Gift Guide

*Handpicked book
recommendations for every
reader on your list*



For the Armchair Time Traveler

THE NICKEL BOYS BY COLSON WHITEHEAD

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author dramatizes the true story of African American teenagers sentenced to an infamous reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

DAISY JONES & THE SIX BY TAYLOR JENKINS REID

Two rock-and-roll artists brought together by a record producer are catapulted to stardom and the seductions of fame in the 1970s.

THE SONG OF THE JADE LILY BY KIRSTY MANNING

A heartbroken woman tending her grandfather's decline learns the remarkable story of her grandmother, a Jewish refugee who forged a fateful friendship with a local in World War II Shanghai.

THIS TENDER LAND BY WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER

Four orphans experience a life-changing journey when they flee a Depression-era school for Native American children taken from their parents.

THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK BY KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON

A last-of-her-kind outcast and member of the Pack Horse Library Project braves the hardships of the Great Depression and hostility from the community to deliver books to her Kentucky neighbors.

For the Hopeless Romantic

RED, WHITE & ROYAL BLUE BY CASEY MCQUISTON

In this comedic novel, a fake friendship between the U.S. President's son and a British prince leads to a politically precarious secret romance.

EVVIE DRAKE STARTS OVER BY LINDA HOLMES

A young widow and an unlucky major league pitcher form an unlikely relationship when they become landlord and tenant.

THE FLATSHARE BY BETH O'LEARY

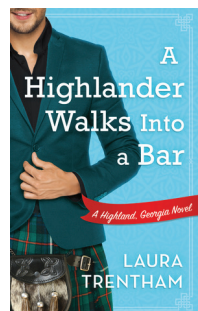
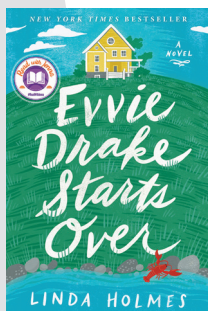
Entering a flatshare arrangement with a man on an opposite work shift, a heartbroken woman begins exchanging notes with the roommate she has never met.

THE UNHONEYMOONERS BY CHRISTINA LAUREN

After a bride gets food poisoning, her maid of honor heads off on the newlyweds' planned trip to Hawaii. The hitch? She's heading to paradise with the best man, who happens to be her nemesis.

A HIGHLANDER WALKS INTO A BAR BY LAURA TRENTHAM

Isabel Buchanan and her mother run the annual Highland games in their small Georgia town. When a handsome Scottish man and his nephew appear in their lives, the games really begin.





For the Thrill Seeker

THE SILENT PATIENT BY ALEX MICHAELIDES

A forensic psychotherapist becomes dangerously obsessed with uncovering the truth about what prompted his client, an artist who refuses to speak, to violently murder her husband.

THE WHISPER MAN BY ALEX NORTH

Mourning the death of his wife, a man seeking a fresh start moves with his young son to the small town of Featherbank but soon learns their new home has a dark past.

LOCK EVERY DOOR BY RILEY SAGER

Recently heartbroken and broke, a young woman takes a job as an apartment sitter in a posh Manhattan building, but when a fellow sitter disappears, she must dig into the building's past to unmask a killer.

OLD BONES BY DOUGLAS PRESTON AND LINCOLN CHILD

A team looking for the lost camp of the Donner Party learns the real story of what happened to the American pioneers. When ancient horrors lead to present-day violence, the case is handed over to a rookie FBI agent.

THIRTEEN BY STEVE CAVANAGH

A defense lawyer and former conman defends his movie-star client in a high-profile murder trial and discovers that the actual killer is sitting on the jury.

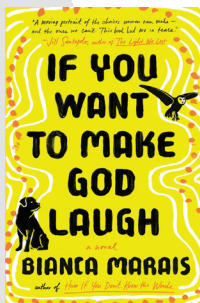


For the Fan of Beautiful Writing

ON EARTH WE'RE BRIEFLY GORGEOUS

BY OCEAN VUONG

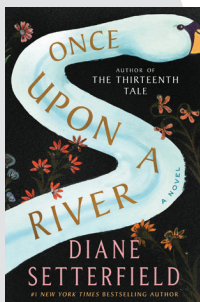
A letter from a young man to his mother who cannot read reveals the impact of the Vietnam War on their family and provides glimpses into parts of the son's life that his mother never knew.



IF YOU WANT TO MAKE GOD LAUGH

BY BIANCA MARAIS

A pregnant teen, a grieving socialite, and a disgraced former nun bond over their troubles in rural post-apartheid South Africa. An abandoned newborn helps them discover the transcendent power of love.



ONCE UPON A RIVER BY DIANE SETTERFIELD

When the seemingly lifeless body of a child reanimates hours after arriving at an ancient inn on the Thames, three families try to claim her.



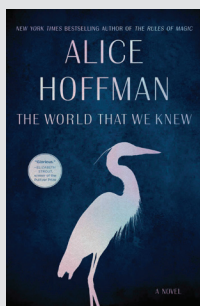
THE STARLESS SEA BY ERIN MORGENSTERN

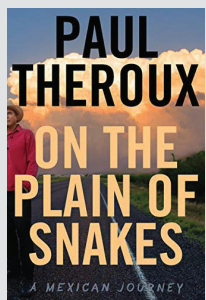
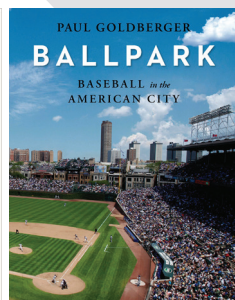
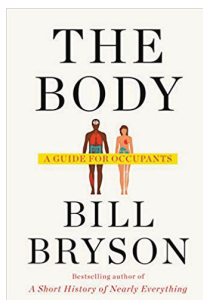
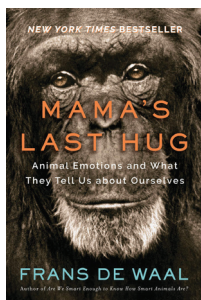
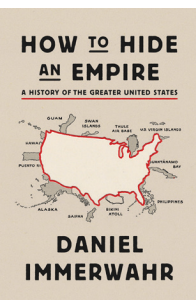
A graduate student discovers a mysterious book of prisoner tales and recognizes a story from his own life among them, leading him to a magical underground library that may soon be destroyed.

THE WORLD THAT WE KNEW

BY ALICE HOFFMAN

A young Jewish girl, sent to Paris in 1941 when Berlin has become too dangerous, bonds with her protective mystical golem while her friend, a rabbi's daughter, becomes a defender of their people.





For the Lifelong Learner

HOW TO HIDE AN EMPIRE BY DANIEL IMMERWAHR

The highly readable stories of the United States' offshore territories, including the Guano Islands, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico, provide insights into how America transitioned from colonialism to technological innovation.

MAMA'S LAST HUG BY FRANS DE WAAL

An influential primatologist draws on renowned studies to explore animal emotions and touches on related subjects including facial expressions, sentience, and free will.

THE BODY BY BILL BRYSON

This engaging head-to-toe tour of the human body offers anecdotal insights into the body's functions, ability to heal, and vulnerability to disease.

BALLPARK BY PAUL GOLDBERGER

A lavishly illustrated history focuses on our ever-changing ballparks to highlight the bond between fans and the national pastime.

ON THE PLAIN OF SNAKES BY PAUL THEROUX

Legendary travel writer Theroux drives the length of the southern U.S. border, then goes deep into Mexico to explore the backroads of Chiapas and Oaxaca, uncovering the rich, layered world behind today's headlines.



For the People Person

TALKING TO STRANGERS BY MALCOLM GLADWELL

The popular podcast host explores how we interact with strangers, explains why these exchanges often go wrong, and offers tips for having more productive interactions.

ONE DAY BY GENE WEINGARTEN

The author looks at a seemingly unremarkable, random day to ask if there is such a thing as “ordinary” and explores how we all lurch and stumble our way through the daily, daunting challenge of being human.

NANAVILLE BY ANNA QUINDLEN

A heartwarming ode to grandparenthood that celebrates the Pulitzer Prize-winning author’s transitioning family roles and her bonds with her grandchildren.

LESSONS FROM LUCY BY DAVE BARRY

To navigate his later years with grace and face the absurdities of daily life, the popular humorist takes cues from his beloved and highly intelligent dog.

SAVE ME THE PLUMS BY RUTH REICHL

James Beard Award-winning journalist Reichl chronicles her groundbreaking tenure as editor-in-chief of Gourmet magazine and her work with the legendary epicureans who transformed how Americans think about food.

For the Young (Adult) at Heart

ON THE COME UP BY ANGIE THOMAS

A 16-year-old wants to become one of the greatest rappers of all time, but when her first song goes viral for all the wrong reasons, she finds herself at the center of a controversy that may threaten her family.

DIG BY A.S. KING

When their rags-to-riches grandparents disinherit them, five teens confront difficult secrets before uniting in the face of a terrible choice to save the family name.

THE FOUNTAINS OF SILENCE BY RUTA SEPETYS

In 1957 Madrid, 18-year-old American traveler Daniel Matheson connects with a young hotel worker through photography and discovers the dark side of the city under Generalissimo Franco's rule.

SORCERY OF THORNS BY MARGARET ROGERSON

A young librarian finds herself entangled in a centuries-old conspiracy after a grimoire—a magical book—releases a dangerous and grotesque monster.

THIRTEEN DOORWAYS, WOLVES BEHIND THEM ALL BY LAURA RUBY

The unforgettable story of two young women—one living, one dead—dealing with loss, desire, and the fragility of the American dream during WWII.

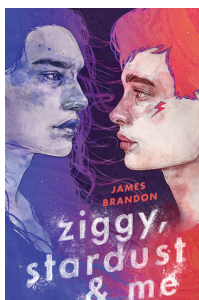




SUGGESTED FOR Teens

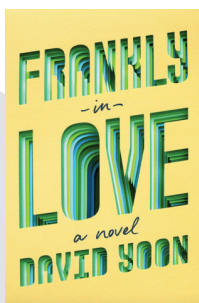
WITH THE FIRE ON HIGH BY ELIZABETH ACEVEDO

Emoni Santiago struggles to balance the challenges of finishing high school, taking care of her daughter and grandmother, and achieving her dream to become a chef.



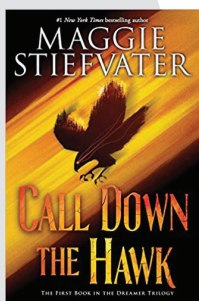
ZIGGY, STARDUST & ME BY JAMES BRANDON

It's 1973: the Watergate hearings are in full swing, the Vietnam War is raging, and homosexuality is considered a mental illness. Against this backdrop, two teens defy the odds and fall in love.



FRANKLY IN LOVE BY DAVID YOON

High school senior Frank Li pursues a girl his parents would never approve, but his plans leave him wondering if he ever understood love—or himself—at all.



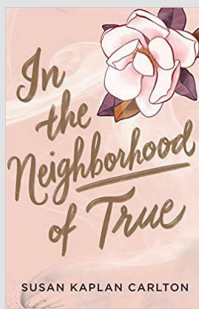
CALL DOWN THE HAWK BY MAGGIE STIEFVATER

The first book in Stiefvater's new Dreamer Trilogy is a mesmerizing tale of dreamers, thieves, and hunters in a world where both the wonders and catastrophes of dreams come true.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF TRUE

BY SUSAN KAPLAN CARLTON

A New Yorker hides her Jewish identity to fit into 1950s segregated Atlanta until a hate crime forces her to face the truth about the choices she's made and the young man she might love.



SUGGESTED FOR

Grades 6–8

STORM BLOWN BY NICK COURAGE

Young protagonists and their families face the challenges of extreme weather when a major hurricane nears Puerto Rico and the southern United States.

THE DOWNSTAIRS GIRL BY STACEY LEE

In 1890 Atlanta, 17-year-old Jo Kuan works by day as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the city's wealthiest men and by night as the author of a newspaper advice column for "the genteel southern lady."

TRISTAN STRONG PUNCHES A HOLE IN THE SKY BY KWAME MBALIA

In this epic fantasy, seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and with his allies must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

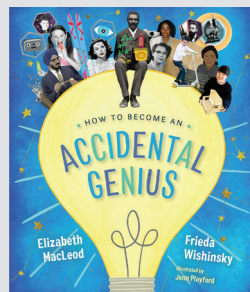
GUTS BY RAINA TELGEMEIER

The popular author (*Smile*) takes a brave look at anxiety, recounting how at nine years old she began experiencing stomach woes, which coincided with rising worries about food, school, and changing friendships.

HOW TO BECOME AN ACCIDENTAL GENIUS

BY ELIZABETH MACLEOD AND FRIEDA WISHINSKY

Inspiring tales of famous and lesser-known inventors who have changed the world, from Mary Anderson, inventor of the windshield wiper, to Frank Epperson of Popsicle fame.





SUGGESTED FOR Grades 3–5

THE NEXT GREAT PAULIE FINK BY ALI BENJAMIN

Led by a new student, seventh-graders at a tiny rural school in Vermont create a reality show–inspired competition to determine who will replace the school’s legendary class clown.

THE STRANGERS BY MARGARET PETERSON HADDIX

Told from separate viewpoints, Chess, Emma, and Finn Greystone, ages twelve, ten, and eight, investigate why their mother went missing and uncover their ties to an alternate world.

SAL & GABI BREAK THE UNIVERSE BY CARLOS HERNANDEZ

This Cuban-influenced sci-fi romp poses the question: What would you do if you had the power to reach through time and space and retrieve anything you wanted, including your mother, who is no longer living?

HOW I BECAME A SPY BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON

To solve a mystery in World War II London, young Bertie Bradshaw forges a detective team with a strong-willed American girl, a Jewish refugee, and a trusty pup.

THE SINGING ROCK & OTHER BRAND-NEW FAIRY TALES

BY NATHANIEL LACHENMEYER

With lively text from Lachenmeyer and eye-popping art by Simini Blocker, this is the perfect read for kids who love a good yarn—and good comics!

SUGGESTED FOR Grades K–2

ADA TWIST AND THE PERILOUS PANTS

BY ANDREA BEATY

When Rosie Revere's Uncle Ned gets a little carried away wearing his famous helium pants, it's up to Ada and her friends to chase after him and bring him back to Earth.

I WILL RACE YOU THROUGH THIS BOOK

BY JONATHAN FENSKE

Beginning readers try to beat Book-It Bunny in a race! With distractions and tricks up her sleeve, the competition becomes fierce and funny. On your marks, get set, read!

TEN RULES OF THE BIRTHDAY WISH

BY BETH FERRY

A child presents ten essential rules of birthday wishes, including the right party, the right dessert, and keeping the birthday wish a secret.

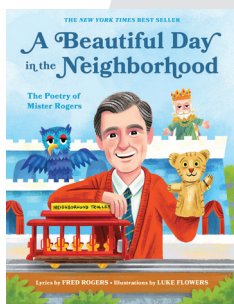
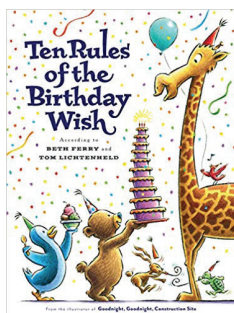
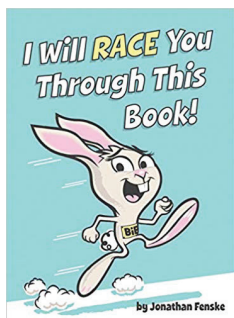
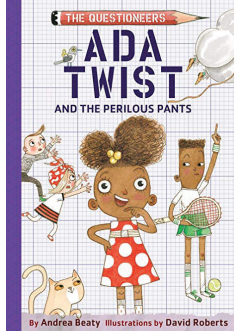
A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: THE POETRY OF MISTER ROGERS

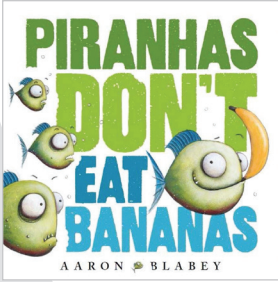
BY FRED ROGERS

An illustrated collection of the lyrics to 75 songs from the beloved television shows *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* and *The Children's Corner*.

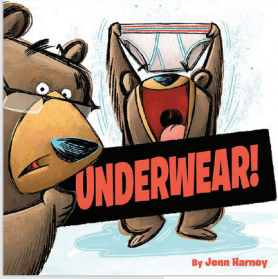
WHO WET MY PANTS? BY BOB SHEA

In this hilarious tale of blame, compassion, and forgiveness, a very embarrassed bear is reminded that accidents happen—but with the support of good friends, life goes on.





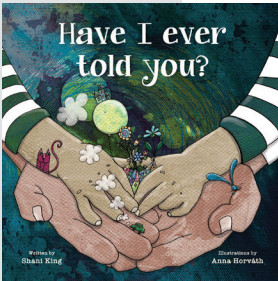
SUGGESTED FOR Preschoolers (ages 3–5)



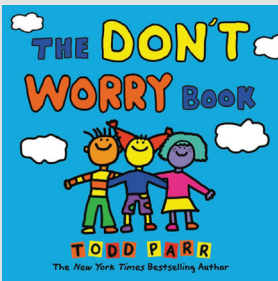
PIRANHAS DON'T EAT BANANAS BY AARON BLABEY

Told in rhyming text, a piranha tries to get other snakes to try his fruit and vegetable platter, but they all prefer meat...like those human feet dangling in the water!

UNDERWEAR! BY JENN HARNEY
Illustrations and simple rhyming text follow a bear who would rather play with his underwear than put it on and get ready for bed.



HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU? BY SHANI KING
King wrote this book to remind his children that they are amazing in their individuality and that they have the power to choose who they want to be in the world. The illustrations by Anna Horvath create a masterful visual narrative.



THE DON'T WORRY BOOK BY TODD PARR
In his new book about things like loud news, loud neighbors, and a big day at school, this beloved author reassures kids who are feeling the weight of worry, offering solutions, comfort, and a few giggles.



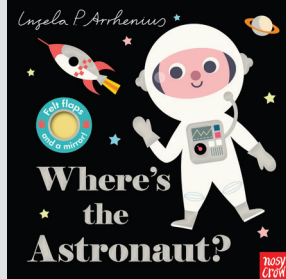
LLAMA DESTROYS THE WORLD
BY JONATHAN STUTZMAN
Eating too much pie causes Llama to tear his dancing pants, opening a black hole, and threatening the entire universe.

Suggested for Tots (ages 0–2)

WHERE'S THE ASTRONAUT?

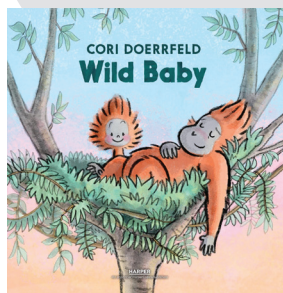
BY INGELA P. ARRHENIUS

Smiling, space-themed friends hide behind bright felt flaps; a mirror at the end reveals the reader.



WILD BABY BY CORI DOERRFELD

When a curious little orangutan goes on a mad dash through the jungle, it's up to Mama to make sure her baby doesn't get into trouble—like dancing on a bear, bouncing on an elephant, or pulling a leopard's tail.



HOW DO YOU SAY GOOD NIGHT?

BY CINDY JIN

From Mexico, Vietnam, Kenya, and beyond, this charming board book teaches little ones how to say “good night” in ten different languages.



ALL KIDS ARE GOOD KIDS

BY JUDY CAREY NEVIN

A sweet board book that celebrates all children and affirms that every kid is one-of-a-kind.



LOIS LOOKS FOR BOB AT THE MUSEUM

BY GERRY TURLEY

Little readers help Lois search for her friend behind museum artifacts, encountering friends along the way in this quirky, lift-the-flap book with a retro feel.

